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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Computer Matching Program between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD)

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice of Computer Matching Program

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs intends to conduct a recurring computer matching program. This will match personnel records of the Department of Defense with VA records of benefit recipients under the Montgomery GI Bill.

The goal of these matches is to identify the eligibility status of veterans, servicemembers, and reservists who have applied for or who are receiving education benefit payments under the Montgomery GI Bill. The purpose of the match is to enable VA to verify that individuals meet the conditions of military service and eligibility criteria for payment of benefits determined by VA under the Montgomery GI Bill.

The authority to conduct this match is found in 38 U.S.C. 3684A(a)(1).

The records covered include eligibility records extracted from DOD personnel files and benefit records that VA establishes for all individuals who have applied

for and/or are receiving, or have received education benefit payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These benefit records are contained in a VA system of records identified as 58VA21/22/28 entitled: Compensation, Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA, first published in the Federal Register at 74 FR 9294 (March 3, 1976), and last amended at 74 FR 29275 (June 19, 2009), with other amendments as cited therein.

DATES: This match will commence on or about [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] or 40 days after the OMB review period, whichever is later and continue in effect for 18 months. At the expiration of 18 months after the commencing date the Departments may renew the agreement for another 12 months.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov; by mail or hand-delivery to the Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or fax to (202) 273-9026. Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Patterson (225B), Strategy and Legislative Development Team Leader, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Further information regarding the matching program is provided below. This information is required by paragraph 6c of the “Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs” issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (54 FR 25818), as amended by OMB Circular A-130, 65 FR 77677 (2000). A copy of the notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB. The matching program is subject to their review.

APPROVED: October 11, 2011

John R. Gingrich, Chief of Staff
Department of Veterans Affairs.

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